

16/33/

CONFIDENTIAL

22

FRP: 02, 05, 08

STATE

25X1

82 9153048 SCD

PAGE 001

NC 9153048

TOR: 311258Z JUL 82

OO RUEA11B
 ZNY CCCCC ZDC STATE ZZH
 STU0401
 OO RUEHC
 DE RUEHAD #2544 2121230
 ZNY CCCCC ZZH
 O P 311220Z JUL 82
 FM USINT BAGHDAD
 TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3773
 INFO RUQMBI/AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI PRIORITY 1254
 RUFHRS/AMEMBASSY ALGIERS 0745
 RUEHAK/AMEMBASSY ANKARA 0848
 RUEHAM/AMEMBASSY AMMAN 4160
 RUEHEG/AMEMBASSY CAIRO 2918
 RUEHDM/AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS 2876
 RUEHDD/AMEMBASSY DOHA 0891
 RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD 0198
 RUEHJI/AMEMBASSY JIDDA 2613
 RUQMK*/AMEMBASSY KUWAIT 2653
 RUEHLD/AMEMBASSY LONDON 1285
 RUQMAM/AMEMBASSY MANAMA 0928
 RUQMMT/AMEMBASSY MUSCAT 0940
 RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI 348
 RUDKBT/AMEMBASSY RABAT 0494
 RUQMNS/AMEMBASSY SANNA 0509
 RUDKKR/AMEMBASSY TUNIS 0734
 RUEHWL/AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON 0011
 RUQMYA/USLO RIYADH 0288
 BT
 C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 2544

E.O. 12065: RDS-4 7/31/02 (EAGLETON, WILLIAM L.) OR-M
 TAGS: MILI, PEPR, PINR, IR, 12

CONFIDENTIAL

State Dept. review completed

CONFIDENTIAL

STATE

82 9153048

SCO

PAGE 002

NC 9153048

TOR: 311258Z JUL 82

SUBJ: BAGHDAD REPORT, JULY 31

1. CONFIDENTIAL ENTIRE TEXT.

2. BAGHDAD HAS NOW CLAIMED TOTAL VICTORY IN SMASHING THE FIFTH PHASE OF THE IRANIAN OFFENSIVE. ENEMY DEAD ARE NUMBERED AT 6409 WITH THE CUMULATIVE FIGURES SINCE JULY 13 27,000. FROM CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE HERE IT APPEARS THAT THE LATEST BATTLE WHICH BEGAN THE EVENING OF JULY 28 WAS A CLOSELY FOUGHT AFFAIR WHICH WAS NOT DECISIVE UNTIL JULY 30. WESTERN TV NETWORK AND PRESS REPS ON JULY 30 WERE GIVEN OFF AGAIN-ON AGAIN SIGNALS RE A VISIT TO THE FRONT. THE GROUP LEFT FOR THE FRONT THIS MORNING WHICH SEEMS TO INDICATE THE IRAQIS ARE CONFIDENT THAT THEY HAVE IN FACT REPULSED IRAN'S LATEST OFFENSIVE.

3. JUST AFTER 8 PM JULY 30, ANTI-AIRCRAFT FIRE ERUPTED THROUGHOUT BAGHDAD. US TV CREWS SCRAMBLED FOR THEIR CAMERAS BUT WERE TOO LATE SINCE THE FIRING LASTED NO MORE THAN A MINUTE. THE IRAQIS SAY THE INCIDENT WAS DUE TO AN IRAQI PLANE STRAYING OVER A RESTRICTED ZONE. ACCORDING TO ONE SOURCE, THE PLANE, AN EXECUTIVE JET, WAS PILOTED BY THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE AND WAS RETURNING FROM BASRA WITH THE LATEST REPORTS ON THE BATTLE AND THE BODY OF IRAQ'S UNKNOWN SOLDIER WHICH WAS PLACED IN THE NEW MONUMENT LATER IN THE EVENING.

4. IRAQI PRESS CARRIED FULL PHOTO COVERAGE OF NIGHTTIME CEREMONY AT THE NEW TOMB OF THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER WHICH WAS ATTENDED BY SADDAM HUSSEIN AND MOST OF THE LEADERSHIP. JULY 30 IS THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE CORRECTIVE MOVEMENT IN 1968 WHICH REMOVED NON-BAATHI ELEMENTS FROM THE GOVERNMENT WHICH HAD BEEN INSTALLED BY COUP, JULY 17. IT IS ALSO THE THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF SADDAM'S PRESIDENCY.

5. OUR FSN WHO WATCHES IRAQI PRESS CLOSELY REPORTS THAT DURING RECENT DAYS ITEMS ABOUT THE US HAVE BEEN GIVEN UNUSUALLY STRAIGHT COVERAGE AND THERE HAS BEEN NO LINKING OF IMPERIALISM AND ZIONISM WITH THE IRANIAN SIDE AS HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN THE PRACTICE.

EAGLETON

END OF MESSAGE

CONFIDENTIAL